

Monday: 03 05 21

Psalm 139

Reflection: The Psalm begins with a description of how well God knows each of us. We are a completely open book to Him. Nothing we do or think is hidden from God. It then moves to focus on those who hate God. With an explanation that we hate them for the sake of God. Closing with a plea that God will search our anxious hearts and remove any offensive traits within us that may betray us.

Application: Each time we enter praise and prayer on a Sunday, we bring before God our anxious hearts. As well as our open confessions of things we have done through the week.

Challenge: How well can we identify those things we have wrongly done in the sight of God?

Tuesday: 04 05 21

Romans 12:1-2

Reflection: In the book of Romans we read a collection of letters written to the Christians in Roman encouraging them to abide together in love and faith. Avoiding conflict and seeking a renewal of a fuller knowledge of God's will in their lives. As well as how best to love and support each other.

Application: Someone once said that Church was a way of teaching us how to get along with people we will spend eternity with. Perhaps what we are learning is how to see God's purpose for each of us through how we treat each other in God's name.

Challenge: Whose a challenging person in Church? What will it take to embrace our God in them

Wednesday: 05 05 21

Matthew 11:25-30

Reflection: The analogy of the yoke is well used in this verse. A farmer will take a new inexperienced oxen and yoke or bridle them with an oxen that is experienced and can lead them calmly. The Lord uses this analogy to explain how he will help us find peace and calm in a hectic and fearful world.

Application: Every day and every week we are literally bombarded by a world that thrives on stress. Some become fearful and conditioned to live on a constant level of stress. But as we search God's Word we will find a reassurance of the Lord's ability to take our burdens and give us peace.

Challenge: Make a list of all that creates stress in you; now counter each with God's Grace.

Thursday: 06 05 21

John 15:18-19

Reflection: The world hates God and hates the Lord. As we now belong to the Lord it will also hate us as well. These verses tell us that the world hated the Lord before us. That if we were of the world it would not hate us. But we then would not be of God. And therefore would be lost like the world

Application: Oddly as Christians we will have a mix of friends and acquaintances. People who will be nice to us as long as we don't upset their opinions. But once they learn we are Christians they become rude towards us. Mocking our faith.

Challenge: It's a challenge to stay focused when someone hates your faith. Stay strong and trust God.

Friday: 07 05 21

Song of Songs 8:6

Reflection: In this we find a wonderful example of early Hebrew poetry. The use of imagery to convey the strength of love over death and the jealous zeal of God for us over the grave. It also has an interesting mention of placing God's Word over the heart and on the arm. A reference to the phylactery that many devout Jews wore while they did their morning prayers.

Application: Many Christians take time each morning to pray. They pray thankfully for God's blessings through the night. And they pray for God's guidance for the day to come.

Challenge: Have you found a time to set aside and pray? What works best for you?

Saturday: 08 05 21

John 6:27

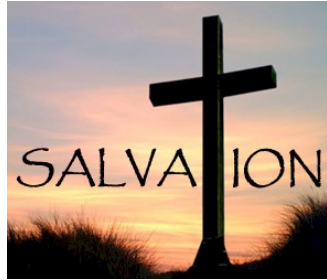
Reflection: John tells us there is a vast difference between physical food and spiritual food. He tells us that is we are working for nothing but the physical, we will always be hungry. But if we work towards the spiritual food that the Lord can give us, we will be filled and satisfied.

Application: We sit and listen to the service each Sunday. Our daily bread of God's Holy word for our soul. We have eaten worldly physical food for the body. Now we are enriching our souls with a spiritual food that will not decay.

Challenge: How filled and satisfied do you feel after service Sunday. Are you digesting properly?

## *Salvation*

*Villanelle*



Do not sell your salvation so cheaply.  
Purchased for you by the Lords precious life.  
Hold it fast unto the day of glory.

Every life should tell a love story.  
A passionate song played on drum and fife.  
Do not sell your salvation so cheaply.

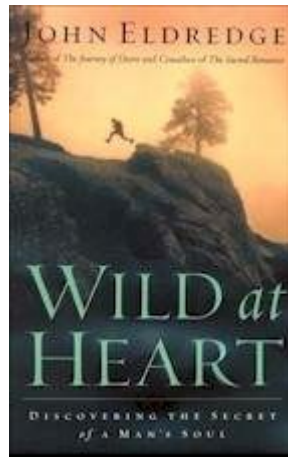
here are those who in fear of death will flee.  
Burdened by a world of dark fear and strife.  
Hold it fast unto the day of glory.

In a tear you will find eternity.  
The perfect truth sharper than a cold knife.  
Do not sell your salvation so cheaply.

There is one whose steadfast love is holy.  
Gentler than a doting loving wife.  
Hold it fast unto the day of glory.

With a faith felt in my heart so deeply,  
will stand firm in a cruel world so trife.  
Do not sell your salvation so cheaply.  
Hold it fast unto the day of glory.

MJ Flack



Title: Wild at Heart  
Author: John Eldredge  
ISBN: 0-7852-6694-1  
Pub: Thomas Nelson

This is a powerful book. It has the potential to change, uplift and nurture a mans heart and soul. John Eldredge has delved into an area that for far too long has been suppressed. That being the need for Boys to be Boys and Men to be Men.

Over the last forty years we have been forced to believe that Masculinity is not a good thing. That for men to be good and acceptable they must somehow crush and suppress their inner nature. John Eldredge explores these myths and explains why there are such differences between Boys and Girls. Between Men and Women. And why we need them.

M J Flack

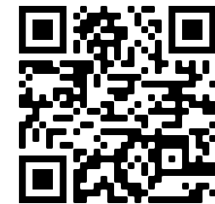
## Six days to Sunday



**Stepping Stones of Faith**

**03 05 21**

*We believe in the Bible over all of life  
and that Salvation is: In Christ alone,  
by Grace alone, through Faith alone.*



*Our Church Website*  
<http://bowenfelspresbyterianparish.org.au>